

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Thursday, June 27, 2013

Location: DelDot Felton/Farmington Room, 800 Bay Road, Dover 19901

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)
Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)

Members absent: Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)
Marianne Cinaglia (DelEASI)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)
Brenna Goggin, (Delaware Nature Society)
Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)
Basil Kollias (DE Chamber of Commerce)
Carrie Leishman (Restaurant Industry)

Non-members present: Jim Short (DNREC) Bill Miller (DNREC)
Nancy Marker (DNREC) Bob Barrish (Citizen)
Allen Thienpont (Waste Industries) Paul Sparks (Cascade Engineering)
Terry McBride (Burns & McBride) Joe Maier (Econo-Haul)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 A.M.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes May 23, 2013 Meeting

BJ corrected the first sentence under the Bottle Fee Collection Update to reflect the March number being \$229,000. He corrected his comment under the Universal Recycling Grant Update. The minutes were unanimously approved with these two changes.

Bottle Fee Collection Update

Bill M. shared that he did not have more recent bottle fee collection numbers from the Division of Revenue. The last reported numbers are \$229,108 for March, which is still about 64% of where the funding was originally projected. The collections are expected to generate \$14 million by the sunset date in late 2014. Bill M. explained that 10% of the revenue will pay for the program's administrative costs such as personnel and outreach and 90% is used for the grants program. So broken down that would be \$1.4 million and \$12.6 million respectively. About \$6.8 million of the grants program is already spent or obligated to be spent by grant recipients. DNREC, with continued involvement from RPAC, believes it will absolutely be necessary to spend the remaining \$5.8 million in future grant cycles in order to achieve the aggressive diversion goals established in the Universal Recycling Law. In response to some questions Bill M. explained that the grant money does not need to be spent by December 1, 2014, that is just the date when the revenue is no longer collected.

Universal Recycling Grant Update

Jim S. announced that all but one contract had been executed prior to our end of year fiscal deadlines. The last contract is signed but funding won't be available to this grantee until mid or late July of this year. Nearly \$1.4 million is obligated in this grant cycle.

Recycling Market Update

Mike P. shared that prices for single-stream recyclables were stagnant but still positive. The low pricing is likely due to slow overseas markets. The pricing not dipping into negative value as happened in 2008 may be due to more developed domestic markets. Paul B. (absent) similarly commented, via email prior to the meeting, that prices were in a low but positive holding pattern.

DSWA Regulatory Public Hearings on July 2, 2013

Mike P. announced that the DSWA is making changes to its regulations. The major changes are separating the definitions of "dry waste" and "construction and demolition waste" and enabling the DSWA to adopt flow control if needed. Mike P. added that the flow control language is precautionary and the DSWA is not in the process of implementing it. The hearings are next Tuesday (July 2, 2012).

Date/Time/Location of September Meeting

BJ opened a discussion about scheduling the September meeting where future meetings will be subsequently scheduled. After some discussion the Council resolved to meet on September 25, 2013 at 10:00am in Sussex County. The location is too be determined, but likely the DNREC Lewes Facility. BJ asked the Members to bring calendars for scheduling through June of 2014 to the September 2013 meeting.

Old/New Business

Jim S. explained earlier in the meeting that DNREC is working hard to inform businesses of their recycling requirements. Aside from workshops and mass media outreach already conducted, DNREC is working on presentations to be given to chambers of commerce and a letter that will be sent with Division of Revenue notices in the fall to all licensed businesses. George D. suggested DNREC reach out to large property managers to best reach their tenants. Jim S. asked and Allen T. responded that haulers are educating businesses. Mike P. added that he has talked with many haulers who have been promoting commercial recycling.

George D. asked about the validity of combining trash and recyclables for collection. Bill M. explained that this is an issue that DNREC wants to clearly address and has already done so with one entity. Bill M. stated "Nobody should be combining trash and recyclables, the intent of the Universal Recycling Law is that recyclables are kept separate from trash and that the recyclables are actually recycled. No recycling facility in Delaware is permitted to accept recyclables commingled with trash. No business or waste hauler should be mixing recyclables and trash."

Marj C. announced that there was a line item in the Budget Bill to give DNREC \$100,000 to help cover costs for the Polly Drummond Hill Road Yard Waste Drop-Off Site. Bob B. asked if that was enough to cover costs for a year and Marj C. said probably not.

Mike P. shared that the DSWA is preparing for the ReCommunity Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) dedication. There will be an open house on September 7, but there will also be a ribbon cutting event in August to which RPAC Members will be specifically invited.

Jim S. explained that DNREC is working on pursuing entities that did not respond to the mandatory recycling reporting.

Jim S. announced that the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) has launched a regional online exchange called the Reuse Marketplace specifically designed to encourage reuse among businesses.

Marj C. shared that House Bill 198 was introduced and would allow local governments to institute plastic bag ordinances and would remove the sunset provision in the existing plastic bag law.

Coralie announced that a group was working on draft legislation to require big box stores that sell electronics to accept those types of electronics back for recycling regardless where the item was purchased.

Marj C. and BJ explained that some Members will be soon getting a reappointment letter. They asked that Members please take it to the Recorder of Deeds and get it signed in a timely fashion.

Additional Public Comments

None

Next Meeting

September 25, 2013 at 10:00am in Sussex County. The location is too be determined, but likely the DNREC Lewes Facility.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned approximately 11:10 am.